

These and no doubt other kindred reflections led to the creation of the Royal Commission, and these and similar thoughts have been much in our minds throughout our long inquiry, and our many talks together. There is, however, one further assumption which I imagine embraces the others. This is that nationalism, and more particularly Canadian nationalism, is not an obsolete notion. Our work, and whatever may stem from it, rests upon the conviction that Canada is to remain an independent nation, and that in consequence it is the right and the duty of our governments and of our citizens to do all that is possible under the law and under the constitution to strengthen our sense of Canadianism. I know that for a generation it has been fashionable to decry "nationalism". I am, however, not convinced that in doing what we can to strengthen and to enrich our own national life we are doing any disservice to the international cause. On the contrary, it seems to me that for many a year, and even for many a generation to come, we can do our best service to the world at large by "rightly ordering our own household"; and our inquiry has revealed, to us at least, that there is much right ordering to be done.

We make no apology, therefore, for having had as our main preoccupation throughout the manner in which the Federal Government and its various agencies may best serve the people of Canada and best promote our sense of national consciousness, with respect for the Constitution, and within those important fields with which we were concerned. This is not to say, however, that we have considered such matters only as means to the desirable end of national unity. Rather is it true that by creating the conditions in which the "civilizing arts" may prosper, we shall at the same time be establishing the best and perhaps the only basis for our national unity and our national greatness.

Such then have been, I think, the principal ideas or assumptions which led to this inquiry, and which, in any event, have been much in our minds. I should like now to discuss with you in a general way some of the more striking things which emerged from our work.

First of all, in examining certain activities and institutions in our country in the fields of art, literature and science, it at once became clear to us that we were exploring the very foundations of Canadian life, and that on these foundations alone, as I have suggested, Canadian unity must rest. Many of these forces which have made Canada a nation belong, of course, to the material sphere. Physical links are essential to our coherence -- railways, road, airlines -- but true unity belongs to the realm of ideas. We thought it very significant to hear representatives of our two Canadian cultures express repeatedly the belief that, in our common cultivation of the mind, Canadians, English- and French-speaking, can find true Canadianism. At this point I should like to pay a very sincere tribute to the part played in our common effort by my French-speaking fellow Canadians, many of whom are no doubt listening.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

A titre de président de la Commission royale, je tiens à exprimer ici à mes compatriotes de langue française, qui ont participé d'une façon ou d'une autre à l'oeuvre de la Commission, toute la reconnaissance que je leur garde pour l'apport essentiel qu'ils ont fourni à notre tâche commune. Cet apport ne fut pas seulement la preuve du rôle éminent